

Just Get Serious® About Success Pursue Your Passion



Joanne Smith

Nothing great in the world has ever been accomplished without passion.

G. Hegel (1770-1831) German Philosopher & Writer

The above quote reminds me of Joanne Smith. She is passionate about singing and is accomplishing great things because of it. I hope this article inspires you to pursue your passion.

I met Joanne Smith a couple of years ago and she immediately impressed me when she excitedly told me that she loved singing and invited me to her upcoming show. I attended and have been a fan of her's ever since. That evening (and the subsequent events I attended), she was outstanding!

Joanne uses her incredible voice to sing pop, R&B, country & western, and ballads. I can personally attest to the fact that she leaves her audiences feeling fantastic. Whether she is singing at a small local venue or at Atlanta's grand High Museum, her performances are always uplifting, inspiring, and unforgettable!

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I decided to interview Joanne because she is pursuing her passion of singing while working a full-time job at The Coca-Cola Company. That is an incredible feat! I hope she inspires you to pursue your passion.

Donna: Joanne, would you say you are someone who is truly living her passion?

Joanne: Yes, singing has been my passion since I was a little girl. Once I got that "high" that comes from an audience's applause, I was totally hooked! A great performance has my adrenaline so high, that I have to get "talked down" after a show so I can go to sleep. I can't really think of any other way to describe the feeling. It's just the best feeling that I know.

Donna: Why do you call your band "The Joanne Smith Experience"?



Joanne & her band performing.

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Joanne: I use this name because after one of my shows, someone said to me "girl, I am so glad I came! I would have hated to miss the Joanne Smith experience! I really enjoyed myself!" I decided to adopt the name because it truly reflects what I endeavor to create - an evening of different styles of music, that take you back down memory lane or make you want to jump up and dance or close your eyes and just groove.

Joanne (cont'd): Every time I step in front of that mic, regardless of the audience size, my goal is to make you have a good time. So much so, that you are glad you had the "experience" and you will definitely plan to come see us again!

Donna: What my readers may not know about you is that along with being an incredible singer, you work full-time at The Coca-Cola Company. Can you tell us about your position?

Joanne: I'm a Senior Executive Administrative Assistant. This role is an administrative role, but it's the highest level you can achieve in the administrative field at the company. It's a very busy and demanding job.

Donna: How are you able to work full-time in such a demanding job and still pursue your passion of singing?

Joanne: The best part of "owning" my own business is that I get to schedule work when I want. Plus, most of my gigs are at night (except my June 16, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. lunch time gig at Centennial Park), so I don't have to worry about conflicts with work hours. If I do get a gig in the day time, then I just take a vacation day so I can perform.

Donna: What are some of your biggest challenges in doing both?

Joanne: I tried to stop singing before in the past, when I thought it was just "too much to be trying to do both." But I soon realized that I have the music in me, and I can't stop. So I had to think of a way to do both. In all honesty, my two worlds complement each other very well. Most of my audiences are made up of co-workers and company associates that I've invited to see me perform.

Donna: What are some of your biggest joys in doing both?

Joanne: The biggest joy I get from doing both is that my day job allows me to have a lifestyle and maintain the well being of my family. I sing because it's my passion, and though I get paid to do it, I'm not able to maintain my family from it - yet! However, when my CD entitled "It's Like That" hits, I hope that changes.



Smith sharing her incredible voice



Smith clowning around

I am also glad to have established my reputation as an entertainer with integrity and honesty, so I have been able to get musicians to believe in me. I now have a band that is better than I ever hoped for or imagined.

Donna: You are always such a positive person. To what do you attribute having such a great outlook?

Joanne: My mother used to say that to me all the time that "nothing beats a failure, but failure to try." We weren't allowed to say "I can't" in my mama's house. My mother said that "can't" wasn't even a word. I remember one of the worst whippings I got was for saying "yes, it is. It's a contraction for cannot." Seriously, if anybody reading this interview has a passion or a dream, don't be afraid to get started. And don't be afraid to invest in yourself. If you're not willing to invest in you, why would you expect someone else to?

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Donna: What do you suggest for those interested in pursuing their passion while continuing to work? What are some things they need to consider?

Joanne: I recommend you take a realistic look at how much time your passion will take and decide if you have the stamina to invest in your dream. You will also want to recognize, ahead of time, that things may not go exactly according to plan at first, so be prepared for those times and don't give up. If your dream is one that costs money - consider the costs also. You may have to budget differently in order to even get started; but you've got to believe that "there is more than one way to skin a cat."

At the end of the day, it will depend on how much you want to live your passion. If you do, then you'll go after it from different angles if need be. With the economy the way it is now, no one can afford to quit a job, so be sure to take care of what's most important - the thing that puts food on the table, clothes on your back and a roof over your head. Be smart and creative. It can be done! I'm proof.

Donna: What do you suggest that people do to find their passion if they are not sure what it is?

Joanne: To find your passion, ask yourself "what is the thing that is so fulfilling to me that I just have to do it, and what brings me so much pleasure that I'd do it for free just to be able to do it?" That's your passion!

Donna: It has been great talking with you. Thank you for taking the time to inspire my readers.

Joanne: Thank you, Donna, for giving me this opportunity! I owe you a shout out when I get my Grammy award!

Donna: Joanne, I believe it just may be sooner than you think!

Visit www.TheJoanneSmithExperience.net to read more about the remarkable Joanne Smith.



Smith living her passion!

I hope Joanne has inspired you to pursue your passion. Not sure what you are passionate about? Read my article Discover Your Passion.

Donna Satchell, President of STARR Consulting & Training is a speaker, trainer and author. She provides programs in customer service, team-building, time management, public speaking as well as motivational speeches which inspire individuals to live more successful lives. Please visit www.JustGetSerious.com for information about products and services as well as to view videos of Donna's speeches.

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